

C1 1. (Twice Amended) A method of treating or preventing hepatitis C virus infection in a subject which comprises administering an effective amount of an Eo protein having amino acids 1-120 of SEQ ID NO:1 to the subject, wherein the Eo protein is capable of inhibiting the attachment of hepatitis C virus onto cells by specifically binding to the hepatitis C virus envelope E2 protein so as to treat or prevent hepatitis C virus infection.

C2 3. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the hepatitis C virus envelope E2 protein comprises amino acids having an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2.

C3 5. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the hepatitis C virus envelope E2 protein comprises amino acids having an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3.

C4 7. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the Eo protein comprises amino acids having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1.

C5 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the cells are liver cells.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the liver cells are human liver cells.

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DI 44. (New) A method of preventing attachment of hepatitis C virus onto a cell, which comprises contacting the cell with an effective amount of an Eo protein having amino acids 1-120 of SEQ ID NO:1 to the subject, wherein the Eo protein is capable of inhibiting the attachment of hepatitis C virus onto the cell by specifically binding to the hepatitis C virus envelope E2 protein.

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45. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the hepatitis C virus envelope E2 protein comprises amino acids having an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2.

46. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the hepatitis C virus envelope E2 protein comprises amino acids having an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3.

47. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the Eo protein comprises amino acids having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1

48. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the cell is a liver cell.

49. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein the liver cell is a human liver cell.

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